Transport problem in Delhi

2983. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from April 1 there would be a major transport problem in the Capital as commercial vehicles run by diesel would be taken off the road; and

(b) if so, what timely steps are being taken by Government to provide for substitute transport to the masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The matter is under review of Supreme Court and as such the likely Road Transport scenario in Delhi cannot be visualised at this juncture. Further, the matter is being dealt with by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Construction of a tunnel under Rohtang Pass

2984. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister, during his visit to Himachal Pradesh last year, has made a declaration at Kaza for construction of a tunnel under Rohtang Pass near Manali; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to start the construction work of the tunnel which is very important from safety point of view particularly for Ladakh Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) The construction of tunnel under Rohtang Pass figured in the speech of Hon'ble Prime Minister delivered in Kelang-Lahoul-Spiti on 3.6.2000.

(b) Feasibility study for the construction of tunnel under Rohtang Pass has been completed recently and a decision in this rgard is yet to be taken.